

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 6 is requested to be cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 10 are currently being amended.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Applicant appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6 and 9. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended each of the independent claims 1, 4, and 5 to include the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 6. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1, 4, and 5, as well as the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite because it was unclear if “a plurality of suction holders” in claim 10 are the same as “a suction holder” in claim 1. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 10 to recite “a plurality of the suction holders” to make clear that this recitation includes “a suction holder” from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 10 is definite and in conformance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2.

Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Goellner (U.S. Patent No. 5,590,870), claims 1-3, 5, 7, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimada (JP 59-097886), claims 1-3, 5, 7, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Neveu (U.S. Patent No. 6,863,323), claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neveu in view of Uemura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,005,277), and claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goellner in view of Uemura et al. These rejections are moot in

view of the amendment to claims 1, 4, and 5 incorporating the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 6.

Applicant submits that entry of this Amendment after final is proper because claims 1, 4, and 5 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 6, thus placing all of the pending claims in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request the entry of this Amendment, the allowance of the pending claims, and the passage of this application to issue.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By M. L. Law Reg. No. 43,250

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5426
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By Glenn Law
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,371